

***Dumetia hyperythra navarroi* subsp. nov.**

Type: A male collected by Br. Navarro at Khandala c. 2000 ft., Western Ghats, Poona District, Bombay State, on 22-5-1958. *B.N.H.S.* Coll. No. 20120.

Named in honour of Br. A. Navarro, S.J., of St. Xavier's High School, Bombay, who procured the specimens at Khandala, and who has in other ways helped the Society with ornithological and other material over the last 30 years.

Four more from Khandala, two from Kihim (Alibag Taluka, Kolaba District), and one from Padhga (Bhiwandi Taluka, Thana District), have all the characters on which this race is described.

Distribution: Four specimens from Bombay and Salsette Islands are nearer *abuensis*. The two specimens from Kihim, which is on the mainland about 6 miles south across Bombay harbour, are definitely *navarroi*. Of two collected around Bhiwandi, which is on the mainland 20 miles north of Bombay, only one has all the characters, while the other may pass as *abuensis* except for the colour of the bill and legs. The distribution in the Konkan, as also around Khandala, needs to be worked out and it could form the basis of an interesting ecological study.

While handling the *Dumetias* in the Bombay collection it was apparent that there were several variations in the forms without the white throat, i.e. *hyperythra*. The scarcity of fresh material deters one from attempting to separate any geographical forms, but they will no doubt repay further taxonomical study.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
91, WALKESHWAR ROAD,
BOMBAY 6,
May 20, 1959.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

10. ON THE VALIDITY OF *HARPACTES ERYTHROCEPHALUS*
HODGSONI (GOULD) [AVES: TROGONIDAE]

(With a text-figure)

The Redheaded Trogon was first described as *Trogon erythrocephalus* by Gould (1834) from specimen(s) obtained in Rangoon, Burma. The Himalayan bird from Nepal was later separated by him (1838) as *Trogon (Harpactes) hodgsoni*. The indiscriminate use

of these two names in the literature has led to a great deal of confusion in the nomenclature. The following are some examples:

(a) *hodgsoni* used for the Indian and *erythrocephalus* for the Burmese birds (Gould, 1838, 1865, 1869);

(b) *hodgsoni* used for the Burmese bird without any reference to *erythrocephalus* (Blanford, 1870; Blyth, 1875);

(c) *erythrocephalus* and *hodgsoni* treated synonymously, the former being used for both the Indian and the Burmese birds (Oates, 1883; Hume, 1890; Ogilvie-Grant, 1892; Blanford, 1898; Baker, 1927; Peters, 1945);

TABLE I

Measurements in mm., of specimens of *Harpactes erythrocephalus* (Gould)

Locality	Sex	Wing	Tail	Bill	Wing-Bill Index ¹
Kumaon ..	♀	153	201	21	13.7
Nepal ..	♂	153, 154, 155.5	182, 195, —	21, 21, 21.5	13.5, 13.6, 14.1
	♀	151, 152.5, 153, 154	180, 183, 188, 190	20, 20.5, 21, 21	13.2, 13.4, 13.6, 13.7
Sikkim ..	♂	149, 149, 150, 151, 154	176, 176, 178, 190, 190	21, 21.5, 21.5, 22, 22	13.9, 14, 14.4, 14.7, 14.8
	♀	150, 151	182, 185	20, 21.5	13.2, 14.4
Assam ..	♂	145, 145, 147, 147, 148, 150, 150.5, 151, 151	179, 179, 180, 181, 182, 182, 187, 191, 192	21, 21, 22, 22, 22, 22, 22, 22.5, —	14, 14.5, 14.6, 14.6, —, 14.9, 15, 15, 15
	♀	143, 146, 146, 146, 149	172, 173, 175, 200, —	19, 20, 20, 25.5, 21	13, 13.4, 13.7, 14.3, 14.4
Upper Burma ..	♂	151.5	182	22	14.5
	♀	146, 148	189, 189	23, —	15.5, —
Lower Burma ..	♂	143, 145, 146	177, 186, 201	21, 21, 22	14.5, 14.8, 15
Southern Tenasserim ..	♂	144, 145	180, 182	22, 22.5	15.2, 15.6
	♀	148, —	182, 187	21, —	14.2, —

¹ Wing-Bill Index = $\frac{\text{Bill}}{\text{Wing}} \times 100$

(d) *erythrocephalus* and *hodgsoni* treated synonymously, the latter, in spite of its later date, being used for both the Indian and the Burmese birds (Hume & Oates, 1875; Jerdon, 1877; Hume & Davison, 1878);

(e) *hodgsoni* used for both the Indian and the Burmese birds, even accepting the Nepal and Sikkim birds as different from the Burmese (Horsfield & Moore, 1858);

(f) *hodgsoni* used for Indian birds alone, without any reference to *erythrocephalus* (Hume, 1875).

The main point at issue is the taxonomic status of the Indian bird.

A critical comparison of material from Kumaon, Nepal, Sikkim, Assam, and Burma at once reveals that the Himalayan bird is indeed different from the southern Burmese bird in being much larger, in having a smaller wing-bill index (Table 1), and a shade deeper coloration. The Assam-Upper Burma populations are, as may be expected, intermediate between the Himalayan and the southern Burmese populations (Fig. 1). It seems necessary, therefore, to resuscitate

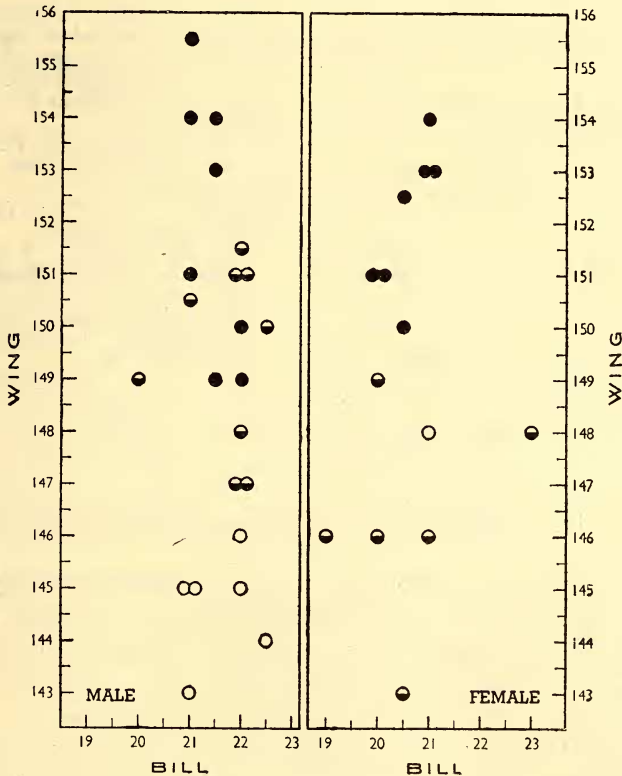


Fig. 1. Lengths of wing and bill in specimens of *Harpactes erythrocephalus* from India and Burma

● Kumaon-Sikkim. ◐ Assam-Upper Burma. ○ Lower & Peninsular Burma

Gould's name *hodgsoni* for the Himalayan bird which should now be known as *Harpactes erythrocephalus hodgsoni* (Gould). Its type locality may be restricted to Hitaura, Chisapani Garhi Province, Nepal.

My grateful thanks are due to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, for extending me all facilities to work on their material on which the above observations are based.

C/O ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
INDIAN MUSEUM,
CALCUTTA 13,
April 8, 1959.

BISWAMOY BISWAS

REFERENCES

- Baker, E.C.S. (1927): The Fauna of British India, Birds (2nd ed.) 4 : 318-319, London.
- Blanford, W. T. (1870): List of birds obtained in the Irrawadi valley around Ava, Thayet Myo, and Bassein. *Ibis*, (2) 6 : 465.
- — (1898): The Fauna of British India, Birds (1st ed.) 3 : 200-201, London.
- Blyth, E. (1875): Catalogue of mammals and birds of Burma. *J. Asiat. Soc. Beng.* 44 (extra no.): 82.
- Gould, J. (1834): Characters of three new species of *Trogon* in the collection of the Society. *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* (2) : 25.
- — (1838): A monograph of the Trogonidae, or family of trogons (1st ed.), pl. 34. London.
- — (1865): The birds of Asia 1 : pl. 69, London.
- — (1869): A monograph of the Trogonidae, or family of trogons (2nd ed.), pl. 42. London.
- Horsfield, T. & Moore, F. (1858): A catalogue of the birds in the Museum of the Hon. East India Company 2 : 713. London.
- Hume, A.O. (1875): Nests and eggs of Indian birds: Rough drafts, 99, Calcutta.
- — (1890): The nests and eggs of Indian birds (2nd ed., Ed. by E. W. Oates) 2 : 339-340. London.
- — & Davison, W. (1878): A revised list of the birds of Tenasserim, *Str. Feath.* 6 : 66.
- — & Oates, E. W. (1875): A first list of birds of Upper Pegu. *Str. Feath.* 3 : 47.
- Jerdon, T. C. (1877): The birds of India 1 : 202. Calcutta.
- Oates, E. W. (1883): A handbook to the birds of British Burmah 2 : 99. London.
- Ogilvie-Grant, W.R. (1892): Catalogue of birds in the British Museum 17 : 488. London.
- Peters, J. L. (1945): Check-list of birds of the world 5 : 163, Cambridge, Mass.

11. EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLETS IN BURMA

I was glad to read Mr. Sálím Ali's contribution of notes on the above by the late Mr. S. F. Hopwood in your *Journal* Vol. 54, No. 4.

Although suggestions for some form of control had been made pre-war, nest collection until 1951-52 was an annual affair, the right to collect being sold by tender—nothing else was done.

During December 1956, I happened to be touring in the Tavoy Forest Division with U Kwet Kaw, A.T.M., Conservator of Forests, Maritime Circle, to revise the working plan and we hit upon the formation of a 'Working Circle'. This is quite a novelty in this part